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20422/US**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended)

2. A composite material comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic matrix having dispersed therein ~~hydrophille~~ hydrophobic inclusions comprising of a hydrophobic active ingredient, said inclusions having a size in the range of 0.01-2 microns.

Claim 3 (previously presented)

3. A composite material according to claim 2 wherein the inclusions have a size of between 0.05  $\mu\text{m}$  and 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 4 (previously presented)

4. A composite material according to claim 2 wherein the load of active ingredient in the composite material is between 1 to 50% w/w.

Claim 5 (previously presented)

5. A composite material according to claim 2 wherein the load of the active ingredient in the composite material is between 5 to 15% w/w.

Claim 6 (previously presented)

6. A composite material according to claim 2 wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of a flavor compound, an extract, a precursor or a composition containing a flavor compound, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (previously presented)

7. A composite material according to claim 2 wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of a fragrance, a fragrance precursor, an odor masking agent, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (previously presented)

8. A composite material according to claim 2 wherein the active ingredient is a compound with biological activity.

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## Claim 9 (previously presented)

9. A composite material according to claim 8 wherein the compound with biological activity is selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutically active substance, an insect repellent, a bactericide, a fungicide, an acaricide and mixtures thereof.

## Claim 10 (previously presented)

10. A composite material according to claim 2 further comprising a second active ingredient dispersed in the inclusions.

## Claim 11 (previously presented)

11. A method for preparing a composite material of claim 2 comprising:
- (a) mixing a hydrophobic active ingredient in a oil-in-water emulsion with a matrix premix comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic polymer; and
  - (b) extruding the mixture (a) to form a composite material characterized in that the composite material comprises a thermoplastic hydrophilic matrix and a hydrophobic active ingredient dispersed as hydrophobic inclusions in the said matrix said inclusions having a size of between 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$  to 2  $\mu\text{m}$  in the matrix.

## Claim 12 (original)

12. A method according to claim 11 further comprising introducing the mixture of (a) into an extruder before extrusion.

## Claim 13 (original)

13. A method according to claim 11 further comprising introducing the oil-in-water emulsion into a barrel of an extruder, which barrel contains the matrix premix, and mixing the emulsion droplets with the matrix premix.

## Claim 14 (original)

14. A method according to claim 11 wherein a polymeric fraction comprises 50% w/w to 100% w/w of the matrix premix.

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## Claim 15 (original)

15. A method according to claim 11 wherein the oil-in-water emulsion contains 5 to 80% w/w active ingredients, 10 to 90% w/w water, 0.5 to 10% w/w emulsifier, and 0 to 10% w/w additives.

## Claim 16 (original)

16. A method according to claim 11 wherein the oil-in-water emulsion contains 30 to 60% w/w active ingredients, 15 to 40% w/w water, 0.5 to 10% w/w emulsifier, and 0 to 10% w/w additives.

## Claim 17 (original)

17. A method according to claim 11 wherein the matrix premix comprises a hydrophilic thermoplastic polymer and an additive.

## Claim 18 (original)

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the hydrophilic thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of native starch, modified starch, thermoplastic starch, polyvinyl alcohol, its copolymers and polyesters.

## Claim 19 (original)

19. A method according to claim 17 wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of crosslinking agents, plasticizers, antiplasticizers, fillers, and mixtures thereof.

## Claim 20 (original)

20. A method according to claim 11 wherein the oil-in-water emulsion further comprises an emulsifier and a surfactant.

## Claim 21 (original)

21. A method according to claim 20 wherein the emulsifier is selected from the group consisting of modified starch, a sucrose or sorbitol ester of a fatty acid, a carbohydrate, a phospholipids, and mixtures thereof.

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## Claim 22 (original)

22. A method according to claim 20 wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of monomolecular surfactant, a polymeric surfactant, and a colloid stabilizer.

## Claim 23 (original)

23. A method according to claim 20 further comprising a co-surfactant.

## Claim 24 (original)

24. A method according to claim 23 wherein the co-surfactant is a primary alcohol or a short chain alkylsulfate.

## Claim 25 (previously presented)

25. A protective or controlled release system for an active ingredient comprising a composite material comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic matrix and a hydrophobic active ingredient dispersed as hydrophobic inclusions within the thermoplastic hydrophilic matrix and having a size in the range of 0.01 - 2 microns.

## Claim 26 (original)

26. A protective or controlled release system according to claim 25 wherein the active ingredient is a flavor or a fragrance.

## Claim 27 (original)

27. A protective or controlled release system according to claim 26 wherein the composite material comprising a fragrance as the active ingredient is incorporated into a consumer product selected from the group consisting of a dry detergent, a household product, and a cosmetic.

## Claim 28 (previously presented)

28. A composite material comprising thermoplastic hydrophilic matrix and a hydrophobic active ingredient dispersed as hydrophobic inclusions in the said thermoplastic hydrophilic matrix said inclusions having a size in the range of 0.01 - 2 microns produced by a process which includes the steps of:
- (a) forming a mixture of a hydrophobic liquid active ingredient in a oil-in-water emulsion with a matrix premix comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic polymer; and

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- (b) extruding the mixture of (a) to form a composite material.

Claim 29 (previously presented)

29. The composite material according to claim 28 wherein the process including the further step of: introducing the mixture of (a) into an extruder before extrusion.

Claim 30 (previously presented)

30. The composite material according to claim 28 wherein the process includes the further step of: introducing an oil-in-water emulsion containing the hydrophobic active ingredient into a barrel of an extruder, which barrel contains the matrix premix, and mixing the oil-in-water emulsion with the matrix premix.

Claim 31 (previously presented)

31. The composite material according to claim 28 wherein the process includes the further step of: forming a mixture of a hydrophobic active ingredient in an oil-in-water emulsion, with a matrix premix comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic polymer wherein the polymeric fraction comprises 50% w/w to 100% w/w of the matrix premix.

Claim 32 (previously presented)

32. The composite material according to claim 28 wherein the process includes the further step of: forming a mixture of a hydrophobic active ingredient in an oil-in-water emulsion, with a matrix premix comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic polymer wherein the oil-in-water emulsion contains 5 to 80% w/w active ingredients, 10 to 90% w/w water, 0.5 to 10% w/w emulsifier, and 0 to 10% w/w additives.

Claim 33 (previously presented)

33. The composite material according to claim 28 wherein the process includes the further step of: forming a mixture of a hydrophobic active ingredient in an oil-in-water emulsion, with a matrix premix comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic polymer wherein the oil-in-water emulsion contains 30 to 60% w/w active ingredients, 15 to 40% w/w water, 0.5 to 10% w/w emulsifier, and 0 to 10% w/w additives.

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20422/US**Claim 34 (previously presented)**

34. The composite material according to claim 28 wherein the process includes the further step of: forming a mixture of a hydrophobic active ingredient in an oil-in-water emulsion with a matrix premix comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic polymer wherein the matrix premix comprises a hydrophilic thermoplastic polymer and an additive.

**Claim 35 (previously presented)**

35. The composite material according to claim 28 wherein the process includes the further step of: forming a mixture of a hydrophobic active ingredient in an oil-in-water emulsion with a matrix premix comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic polymer wherein the hydrophilic thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of native starch, modified starch, thermoplastic starch, polyvinyl alcohol, its copolymers, and polyesters.

**Claim 36 (previously presented)**

36. The composite material according to claim 34 wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of cross linking agents, plasticizers, antiplasticizers, fillers, and mixtures thereof.

**Claim 37 (previously presented)**

37. The composite material according to claim 28 wherein the process includes the further step of: forming a mixture of a hydrophobic active ingredient in an oil-in-water emulsion with a matrix premix comprising a thermoplastic hydrophilic polymer wherein the oil-in-water emulsion further comprises an emulsifier and a surfactant.

**Claim 38 (previously presented)**

38. The composite material according to claim 37 wherein the emulsifier is selected from the group consisting of a modified starch, a sucrose or sorbitol ester of a fatty acid, a carbohydrate, a phospholipid, and mixtures thereof.

**Claim 39 (previously presented)**

39. The composite material according to claim 37 wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of a monomolecular surfactant, a polymeric surfactant, and a colloid stabilizer.

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Claim 40 (previously presented)

40. The composite material according to claim 39 wherein there is also present a co-surfactant.

Claim 41 (previously presented)

41. The composite material according to claim 40 wherein the co-surfactant is a primary alcohol or a short chain alkylsulfate.